Van Jones is a CNN political contributor, regularly appearing across the network’s programming and special political coverage.

Jones has founded and led numerous social enterprises engaged in social and environmental justice. These include: 1) The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, which promotes criminal justice reform; 2) Color of Change, which works for racial fairness through its one million members; 3) Rebuild The Dream, a 21st Century "think tank" that champions innovative solutions to fix the U.S. economy and uplift the next generation; 4) The Dream Corps, which promotes innovative policy solutions. The Dream Corps’ major initiatives are: #YesWeCode, committed to helping train 100,000 low-opportunity youth to become top-level computer programmers; #cut50, which is working to cut the U.S. prison population in half in the next 10 years; 5) and Green For All, which lifts people out of poverty through green job training and job creation.

Jones is a Yale-educated attorney. He is the author of two New York Times best-selling books, The Green Collar Economy (2008) and Rebuild the Dream (2012). The second book chronicles his journey as an environmental and human rights activist to becoming a White House policy advisor. He was the main advocate for the Green Jobs Act. Signed into law by George W. Bush in 2007, the Green Jobs Act was the first piece of federal legislation to codify the term “green jobs.” During the Obama Administration, the legislation has resulted in $500 million in national funding for green jobs training. In 2009, Jones worked as the green jobs advisor to President Barack Obama. In this role, Jones helped to lead the inter-agency process that oversaw the multi-billion dollar investment in skills training and jobs development within the environmental and green energy sectors.

Jones has been honored with numerous awards and spotlighted on several lists of high achievers, including: the World Economic Forum’s “Young Global Leader” designation; Rolling Stone’s 2012 “12 Leaders Who Get Things Done”; TIME’s 2009 “100 Most Influential People in the World”; and the Root's 2014 "The Root 100." He is presently a fellow at the MIT Media Lab.